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INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

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SUBJECT Soviet Maneuvers and Current Troop Dispositions

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1. Between 23 September and 16 October, Soviet maneuvers were held in the area west of Erfurt. Participating were the 57th Guards Rifle Division, another rifle division, a mechanized division, and two armored divisions, the latter two coming from Ohrdruf.

2. One rifle regiment and one engineer battalion of 57th Guards Rifle Division are stationed in Naumburg (JG9), plus one artillery regiment of an unidentified motomech division. Comment: This confirms

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3. All divisions in the Eisenach-Mühlhausen area (N76-89) were assembled in early October to join in simulated defensive combat action under field conditions. The maneuver plan called for armored units from Gotha to halt an armored corps breakthrough at Eisenach from the west and to encircle and destroy this corps in the Arnstadt area. The exercise was carried through with disregard for roads and fields, paralyzed traffic, and produced a great deal of excitement among German civilians, who supposed that war had broken out. Source makes the following notes on various arms and methods employed:

a. Infantry - Equipped with a great many 122 mm mortars. Troops were badly disciplined and on several occasions individuals were observed being beaten or kicked by officers or NCOs.

b. Artillery - During the last phase of the maneuvers, one artillery division with approximately 300 guns was observed. This division was entirely motorized and had three-axled Studebaker prime movers at its disposal. Each artillery regiment was equipped with thirty 76.2 mm guns.

c. Armor - Approximately 800 T-34 and eighty German-type tanks were seen, 150 assault guns of 122 mm and 100 of 100 mm, and about 300 guns of 100 mm calibre. No 122 mm AT guns were observed. Both armored and artillery troops were well trained and disciplined. Engineer units showed up very favorably and temporary bridges, including those for heavy tanks, were set up within three hours.

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d. Air Support - Exercises included the use of one YAK-4 fighter squadron and a formation of Stormovik bombers accompanied by JU-88's. Bendersleben and Haura airfields were used temporarily by these aircraft and were vacated after the maneuvers.

4. Erfurt (J36) was occupied by an armored regiment, with vehicles [redacted] on 14 October.

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5. Seinar contains a new armored unit, the tanks of which were expected to arrive after 20 October.

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6. Halle (D92) received an armored division from the Magdeburg area on 17 October, with divisional vehicles in [redacted]. An artillery unit (size not reported) occupies the AA barracks in Halle-Böhlberg; its vehicles are [redacted].

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7. Köthen (D95) airfield is being used by approximately 100 fighter aircraft, some being German types.

8. Aken (D96) airfield recently received three fighter squadrons now undergoing training, especially in low-level ground attack.

9. Jena (J66) has three armored units, amounting to brigade strength and with a total of 180 T-34 tanks, in Jena-Zwätzen. Another detachment with forty T-34's is in Jena-Lövestedt, which also recently received one armored battalion, one armored infantry regiment (the latter with two motorized infantry battalions).

10. Weissenfels (J99) contains some vehicles which have been reported as small tanks. Actually, source says, these are armored tractors of French origin designed to haul ammunition.

11. Wittenberg (E37) has halted all work on the construction of a new airfield northwest of the town. The temporary field (unlocated) is still being used. Twelve U-2 aircraft were observed there. Some jump training was given in the area during the recent past, but no parachute troops are stationed in Wittenberg.

12. Jessen (E56) owns an artillery depot with approximately 2,000 undescribed guns which are continually being serviced although gun crews are not present.

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[redacted] Comment: Described [redacted] as containing, among others, the following AA guns: 163 of 80 mm, 105 of 120 mm (single barrel); 96 of 80 mm and 46 of 120 mm (double barrel).

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13. Lönnewitz (E71) airfield construction has been stopped and the order for evacuation of the nearby village of Rehfeld (E74) has been rescinded.

14. According to an order issued by General P. A. Kvashnin, chief of the SMA Transport Section, which was sent to RBD Erfurt, all Soviet troops were to have reached their winter quarters by 20 October.

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